

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed August 16, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-19 were originally presented in the application. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-19 were rejected. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 1-19 have been canceled, while claims 20-51 have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 20-51 will be pending in this application. Of these thirty-two (32) claims, three (3) claims (claims 20, 33 and 43) are independent. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

2. Applicant acknowledges receipt of form PTO-892 identifying additional references made of record by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

3. Independent claims 1, 8 and 14 and dependent claims 2-6, 9-13 and 15-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,872,915 to Dykes, *et al.* (hereinafter, "Dykes"). In addition, dependent claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dykes. Based upon the following Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

4. As noted, claims 1-19 have been canceled thereby rendering the outstanding rejections moot. Applicant respectfully asserts that Dykes neither discloses, teaches, nor suggests Applicants invention as recited in new claims 20-51. Dykes is directed to providing secure access to a software application from a web browser over the Internet. Dykes neither discloses, teaches, nor suggests allocating to each customer of a network management portal memory space in a secure storage area in a remote network node, and "storing in a first memory space allocated to a first customer information resulting from performance of a network management transaction by a web application executed for said first customer." (*See*, claim 20, above.) In addition, Dykes neither discloses, teaches, nor suggest "determining, by a security module invoked by said web browser, whether a requestor has been authenticated

as said first customer by said portal, and, if not, requesting verification information from said requestor; and comparing, by said web application, previously-inputted or said requested verification information against said first customer's information stored in a user configuration database to authenticate the requestor." (*See*, claim 20, above.) In contrast the web server application of Dykes authenticates the web browser and passes appropriate input data to an application gateway which uniquely identifies the web browser. The application gateway then uses such authentication data to determine whether the user of the browser is authorized to access the software application. (*See*, Dykes, Abstract; col. 3, lns. 22-62.) For at least these reasons Applicant respectfully asserts that new independent claim 20 is patentable over the art of record.

5. New independent claim 33 is directed to a management information portal that provides customers access to customer information over a network. The claimed management information portal comprises "at least one processor; a secure data storage device coupled to the processor; a user configuration database of customer verification information; a security module configured to determine whether a requestor has been previously authenticated and if not to request verification information from said requestor; and a web application configured to allocate to each customer dedicated memory space in said secure data storage device, to store in memory space allocated to a first customer information resulting from performance of a network management transaction by said web application executed for said first customer, to transfer to a web browser a web page having an embedded link to said web application and said first customer information; to compare previously-inputted or said request verification information against said first customer's information stored in said database to authenticate said requestor; and to commit said requestor access to said first memory space once said requested verification information matches said first customer's information in said database". (*See*, Claim 33, above.) For at least the reasons noted above, Applicant respectfully asserts that Dykes neither discloses, teaches nor suggests Applicant's invention as recited in new independent claim 33. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that new independent claim 33 is patentable over the art of record.

6. New independent claim 43 is directed to a computer readable storage that performs the method of claim 20. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons as those noted above, Applicant respectfully asserts that new independent claim 43 is patentable over the art of record.

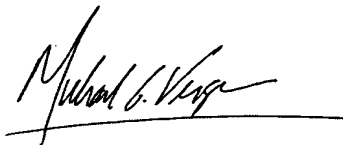
Dependent Claims

7. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them a fortiori and independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

8. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Verga", is written over a horizontal line.

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